IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1, as follows:

The present invention provides another method for producing reduced iron. This method includes a feedstock-feeding step of feeding a feedstock containing a carbonaceous reductant and an iron oxide-containing material into a rotary hearth furnace, a heating/reducing step of heating the feedstock to reduce iron oxide contained in the feedstock into reduced iron, a melting step of melting the reduced iron, a cooling step of cooling the molten reduced iron, and a discharging step of discharging the cooled reduced iron, these steps being performed in that order in the direction that a hearth is moved. The furnace includes flow rate-controlling partitions, arranged therein, for controlling the flow of furnace gas and the pressure of the furnace gas in the melting ~~cooling~~ step is maintained higher than that of the furnace gas in other steps using the flow rate-controlling partitions.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 5, as follows:

According to the present invention, in order to produce reduced iron by reducing and melting a carbonaceous reductant (hereinafter referred to as a carbonaceous material in some cases) such as coke or coal and a feedstock containing an iron oxide-containing substance (hereinafter referred to as iron ore or the like in some cases) such as iron ore, iron oxide, or a partially reduced product thereof, furnace gas flowing in a cooling step is allowed to flow in the direction of the movement of a hearth by providing flow rate-controlling partitions for controlling the flow of the furnace gas in a furnace and oxidizing ~~reducing~~ gas is therefore prevented from flowing from a discharging step to the cooling step, whereby reduced iron with a high degree of reduction can be efficiently obtained with high reproducibility. In particular, the flow rate of the furnace gas flowing in the steps is controlled with the flow rate-controlling partitions that can control the flow of the furnace gas, whereby the direction

that the furnace gas flows is varied. Positions at which the flow rate-controlling partitions are placed are not particularly limited and the flow rate-controlling partitions are preferably placed in such areas that the furnace gas flowing in the cooling step can be allowed to flow in the direction that the hearth is moved.